

11

I received a Letter this Day dated Versailles, the 9th 1776 which concluding it was
from Mons. Courbe I replied to in haste, and addressed myself to him at
the same Time praying him to acquaint your Excellency with the Contents
— The Arrival of Doct. Franchin, being universally known, and the
purport of his Business as universally conjectured, though variously, &
if any one Conjecture is right I declare to your Excellency I have
not at present the means of knowing, I have taken the Liberty to
suggest to your Excellency, that the various reports given out and
which may come of them, reach you, are merely Conjectures as
the Doct. wrote me, he had kept himself inq. as to his Business
and I assure you he wrote me only generally — mentioning the Arrival
of a Person, so universally known, in Europe, as well as America by
Reputation, and so deeply conversant & Interested in the American
cause must occasion much Speculation, and as I apprehended
from the Letter I received, that some Indiscretion was feared on
our part on this Occasion, I must assure your Excellency that I never
mentioned his Arrival to his most intimate Friend, untill the
intelligence was in every Corner of the City, & persons came to me
with Letters from Nantes, supposing they bro't me important News
since which I have owned when asked that he was at Nantes &
that I expected him here, soon, but declared, (as I could not,
had I been disposed, have done otherwise, consistent with that
regard for veracity I must ever retain,) that I knew not his Business.
The Doctors years, as well as his Superior Discretion, will lead
him I am confident, to act the same part, but your Excellency must
not be surprized at a variety of Reports, and Conjectures, on a subject
which ~~must~~ ^{does} surprisingly engage the Attention of every one, and gives
me, as an American, & a Citizen of the World, the most sincere pleasure
in finding, with what disinterested Generosity, the Gallant Subjects of
this Kingdom, appear interested, in whatever affects the great Cause
of Justice & Humanity, nor can I but hail the Order for good,
to those for whom, I am immediately interested, more particularly, and

To his Excellency in general — I am most assuredly anxious for my
honorable Comptroller, and myself, that every Dictation of yours, will be a
Law to Us, in Our proceedings; and that every thing of a public nature
will be kept strictly to Curuleer untill Communicated first to